

Pursuant to 35 U.S.C. §121, Applicant provisionally elects with traverse to restrict the application to Claims 1-7, 15-17, and 18-21 in Group I.

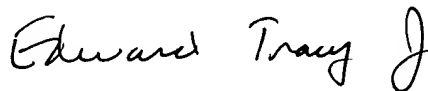
The Office Action further indicated that should Applicant elect Group I, an election of species would be required between the following species:

Species I. Claim 3, wherein attachment of friction pad to backing plate is mechanical.

Species 2: Claims 4 and 5, wherein attachment to backing plate is chemical, such as by welding.

In the event that no generic claim is finally held allowable, Applicant provisionally elects with traverse, Claim 3. Applicant wishes to thank the Examiner for indicating that Claims 1,2,6,7,15-17 and 18-21 are generic.

Respectfully submitted,



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EWT/SCG